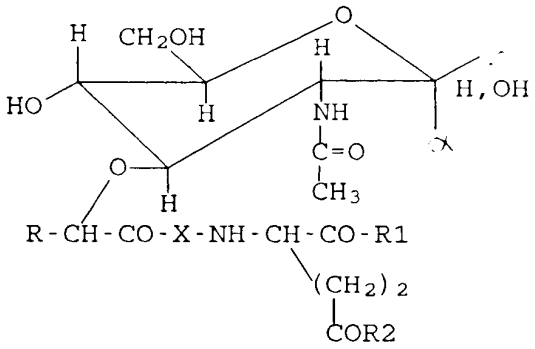
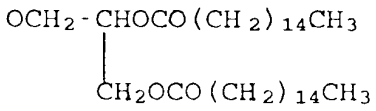
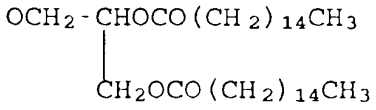


in which the group R is a hydrogen or a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl, L-threonyl or L-lysyl residue, and R1 is a hydroxyl, an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, a hydroxyl, an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, or a group:



it being understood that, when X is an L-alanyl residue, at least one of these two groups R1 and R2 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group as defined above, and that R2 cannot be a group:



--.

--15. The process of claim 14, wherein the muramyl peptide has the above-mentioned general formula in which the R group is a hydrogen or a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl or L-threonyl residue, and R1 and R2 are, independently of each other, hydroxyl, amino or $O(CH_2)_xH$ groups with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, it being understood that, when X is an L-alanyl residue, at least one of these two groups R1 and R2 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group as defined above.--

--16. The process of claim 14, wherein said effective amount of the muramyl peptide is an amount capable of causing a 100% inhibition of the replication of retroviruses in primary cultures of monocytes of the host.--

--17. The process of claim 14, wherein the muramyl peptide has the formula of claim 1, in which:

- the group R is a methyl group, and
- the group R2 is an NH_2 group.--

--18. The process of claim 17, wherein the muramyl peptide is Murametide.--

--19. The process of claim 18, wherein the muramyl peptide is Murabutide.--

--20. The process of claim 14, which is for the prevention or treatment of AIDS or related syndromes, especially Kaposi's sarcoma.--

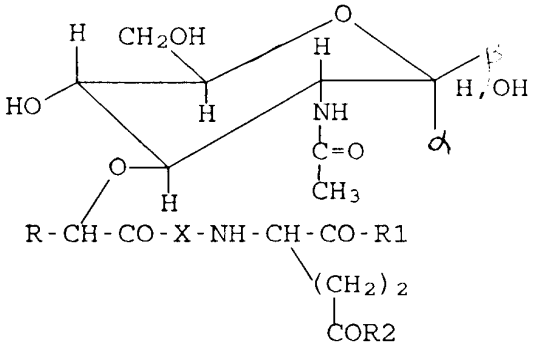
--21. The process of claim 14, which comprises administering said muramyl peptide together with another molecule capable of enhancing the anti-retroviral action of said muramyl peptide.--

--22. The process of claim 21, wherein the other molecule is a cytokine, such as an α-, β- or γ- interferon.--

--23. The process of claim 21, wherein the other molecule is GM-CSF.--

--24. The process of claim 21, wherein the other molecule is a protease inhibitor.--

--25. The process of claim 14, wherein the muramyl peptide has the formula:



in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, either an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, and wherein said effective amount is also an amount that is capable of causing a 100% inhibition of the replication of said retrovirus in primary cultures of monocytes of the host.--

--26. The process of claim 25, wherein both R1 and R2 are $O(CH_2)_xH$ groups.--

--27. The process of claim 25, wherein the muramyl peptide is Murametide.--

--28. The process of claim 25, wherein the muramyl peptide is Murabutide.--

--29. The process of claim 25, which is for the prevention or treatment of AIDS or related syndromes, especially Kaposi's sarcoma.--

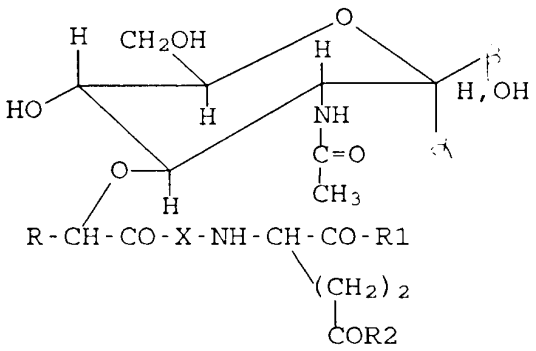
--30. The process of claim 25, which comprises administering said muramyl peptide together with another molecule capable of enhancing the anti-retroviral action of said muramyl peptide.--

--31. The process of claim 30, wherein the other molecule is a cytokine, such as an α-, β- or γ- interferon.--

--32. The process of claim 30, wherein the other molecule is GM-CSF.--

--33. The process of claim 30, wherein the other molecule is a protease inhibitor.--

--34. The process of claim 14, wherein the muramyl peptide has the formula:



in which the group R is a methyl group; X is an L-alanyl or L-threonyl residue, and R1 is an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, R2 is, independently of R1, an amino or an $O(CH_2)_xH$ group with x=1, 2, 3 or 4, or a group: